

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2058

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2115

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, RP

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: DE LA TORRE CASE, NEW ALLEGATIONS OF
DETAINEE TORTURE, AND JALANDONI CASE

REF: A) MANILA 1988; B) MANILA 1859

1. ON FEB 11, TWO MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR
RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS DETAINEES COMMITTEE (AMRSP) CALLED
ON EMBOFF. THEY PROVIDED HIM WITH TEXT OF LETTER (DATED FEB 7)
SENT BY FATHER DE LA TORRE AND HIS FELLOW PRISONERS TO
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THROUGH WASHINGTON ATTORNEY,
TOM JONES. LETTER IS CHRONICLE OF EVENTS SINCE
JONES VISITED THEM DEC 1 1975. (LETTER POUCHED EA/PHL)
AMRSP REPS SAID GENERAL RAMOS NOW CONSIDERING
WHETHER TO ACCEED TO REQUEST OF FAMILIES OF DE LA TORRE
AND OTHER PRISONERS THAT THEY BE MOVED TO METRO MANILA
AREA. IF REQUEST GRANTED, DETAINEES WILL TERMINATE
HUNGER STRIKE WHICH STILL CONTINUES.

2. AMRSP REPS SHOWED EMBOFF COPY OF CABLE THEY INTEND
TO SEND (PROBABLY VIA HONG KONG) TO AMNESTY INTERNA-
TIONAL OFFICE IN LONDON. CABLE CITES "GRAVE TORTURES"
INFLECTED ON RECENTLY ARRESTED DETAINEES. AMRSP
REPS CLAIM THAT JOSE LUNETTA, MEMBER OF CPP/ML CENTRAL
COMMITTEE, HAS BEEN BEATEN AND TORTURED WITH
CIGARETTES AND ELECTRICAL SHOCKS. AMRSP REPS SAID
LUNETTA'S SISTER HAD MANAGED TO SEE HIM IN SAFEHOUSE
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WHICH IS BEING OPERATED BY FIFTH MILITARY INTELLI-

GENCE GROUP. THEY SAID IT WAS HIGHLY UNUSUAL FOR
SISTER TO SEE LUNETA IN HIS CURRENT STATE BUT THAT
SHE APPARENTLY HAD RELATIVES IN ARRESTING PARTY.
EMBOFF NOTED RECENT RUMOR WHICH TURNED OUT TO
BE INACCURATE CONCERNING TORTURE OF MARIFLOR PARPAN
(MANILA 2018). AMRSP REPS SAID THEY HAD VERIFIED
LUNETA'S TORTURE WITH HIS SISTER WHO HAS SEEN ABRASIONS,
BURN MARKS, ETC. THEY AGREED LUNETA'S POSITION IN
CCP/ML MADE HIM ESPECIALLY LIKELY CANDIDATE
FOR TORTURE BUT SAID THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN WAS IN
HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECT OF HIS CASE.

3. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION, AMRSP REPS SAID
GOVERNMENT IS CONSTRUCTING NEW DETENTION FACILITY IN
BICULTAN TAGUIG, RIZAL WHERE DETAINEES NOW SCATTERED
ABOUT MANILA WILL BE CONSOLIDATED. THEY CLAIMED
THIS FACILITY COULD HOLD "THOUSANDS".

4. AMRSP REPS ALSO CONFIRMED THAT LOUIS JALANDONI
HAD GONE INTO HIDING TO ESCAPE ARREST. HIS WIFE,
THE FORMER CONSUELO LEDESMA, IS DUE TO DELIVER THIER
FIRST CHILD ANY DAY. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL JALANDONI
CASE PROMPTED SEVERAL INQUIRIES IN 1975.
SULLIVAN

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